

INDIANA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Conservation Stewardship Program

January 2021



Overview

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation.

Whether you are looking to improve grazing conditions, increase crop yields, or develop wildlife habitat, Indiana NRCS can custom design a CSP plan to help you meet those goals.

CSP pays participants for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

Benefits

CSP is for working lands. It is the largest conservation program in the United States. Thousands of people have made the choice to voluntarily enroll in the program because it helps them enhance natural resources and improve their business operation. Some of the benefits include:

- Improved cattle gains per acre
- Increased crop yields
- Decreased inputs
- Wildlife population improvements
- Better resilience to weather extremes

How it Works

CSP provides two possible types of payments through five-year contracts: annual payments for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing practices; and supplemental payments for adopting a resource-conserving crop rotation.

Who is Eligible

Applicants may include individuals, legal entities, joint operations, or Indian tribes that meet the stewardship threshold for at least two priority resource concerns when they apply. They must also agree to meet or exceed the stewardship threshold for at least one additional priority resource concern by the end of the contract. Producers must have effective control of the land for the term of the proposed contract.

Eligible lands include private and tribal agricultural lands, cropland, grassland, pastureland and nonindustrial private forest land. CSP is available to all producers, regardless of operation size or type of crops produced.

New CSP Grasslands

Conservation Initiative provides financial assistance to conserve grasslands through a single opportunity to enroll in a 5-year contract. Eligible lands are limited to cropland for which base acres have been maintained under FSA's ARC/PLC and were planted to grass or pasture, including idle or fallow, during a specific period. Enrolled acreage must be managed consistently with a grassland conservation plan.

How to Apply

Apply at your local USDA Service Center, which you can find at [farmers.gov/servicelocator](https://www.farmers.gov/servicelocator). Applications are accepted at any time. Payments are made soon as practical after October 1 of each fiscal year for contract activities installed and maintained in the previous year.

Additional Information can be found at: <https://www.farmers.gov/>

